## Patent claims:

- 1. A rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles, having the following features:
- the rack is mounted in a steering mechanism housing such that it is longitudinally displaceable,
- the rack is connected at its two ends to in each case one steering tie rod in an articulated manner,
- the pinion and rack are kept in constant engagement by a pressure piece,
- sealing bellows are fastened on one side to the housing and on the other side to the steering rods
- at least one pressure compensation element is integrated in the steering mechanism housing, characterized in that the pressure compensation element (14) is integrated in the pressure piece (13).
- 2. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the adjusting screw (18) of the pressure piece (13) is equipped with a pressure compensation element (14).
- 3. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the pressure compensation element (14) is composed of a porous sintered material.
- 4. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the adjusting screw (18) of the pressure piece (13) is composed of porous sintered material.
- 5. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the pressure

compensation element (14) is configured as a porous sintered plastic insert.

- 6. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the housing or the adjusting screw (18) of the pressure piece (13) has a cutout (15) which is adapted to the dimensions of the sintered plastic insert and serves to accommodate the sintered plastic insert.
- 7. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in either of claims 5 or 6, characterized in that the sintered plastic insert is configured as a pressed pellet and can be pressed into the cutout (15).
- 8. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the pressed pellet is formed from ground granules which have been joined to one another by a sintering process.
- 9. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the air permeability values and/or the liquid retention capacity can be influenced by the size and/or the shape of the granules.
- 10. The rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the pressure compensation element (14) is configured as a disk or diaphragm.